From: Todd Warner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 9:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My comments will be brief:

Microsoft is guilty of abuse of monopolistic power. Central to this abuse, as with all anti-trust cases, is the practice of building unreasonable competitive barriers for entry into the market.

The proposed settlement being fought by "the nine states" is fraught with bad judgement and simply extends Microsofts monopology, and more importantly, raises, ever higher, that barrier for entry by Micosofts competitors.

My solution? Good question. I don't have the answer. Probably something along the lines of Microsoft being forced to disclose all API's of all its software. That is not unreasonable and will allow other to compete on, at least somewhat competitive footing.

Another possible, or additional, solution: open-source all Micosoft code. (a) the world would know for sure, how secure Microsofts code truly is, (b) competitors would be able to fully harness Microsofts APIs, and (c) a lot of intellectual property openly visible would stimulate inovation across the industry. Closed-source leads to less innovation.